

## Household Notes

### A SPLIT TABLE LEAF.

A table that is just the right size for the number of guests to be entertained is much better than one that is too large. Often the addition of a leaf makes the table out of proportion.

One ingenious housekeeper has simplified this problem by having one of her leaves split in half for occasions when only slightly more elbow room is desirable.—New York Press.

### TREATMENT OF WATER.

Boiled water is insipid because much of the air has been expelled, but this is easily remedied. After boiling the water should be poured into clean quart bottles, which have been sterilized by being boiled in a separate vessel, each bottle being only half-filled. It is then corked and well shaken for a few minutes, by which means the water is again aerated and made palatable.

Ice should not be added to this water, but the bottle can be kept in the refrigerator until it is needed.—Youth's Companion.

### PRESERVING AN UMBRELLA JAR.

The housekeeper who has suffered from having her umbrella jar broken by hastily-pushed-in umbrellas should welcome the contrivance of a clever woman who declares she has learned how to prevent breaking.

From an old rubber mat she cut two circles that just fitted the bottom of the jar. These were put one on top of the other and when an umbrella was pushed in hurriedly it struck a soft surface instead of a breakable one.

If one does not possess the rubber mat it will be found worth while to buy enough sheet rubber such as is used by plumbers. Its cost is nothing compared to a new umbrella jar.—New York Press.

### SHOES.

The soles of shoes can be made water proof and will wear much longer if they are given several coats of copal varnish. The varnish may be bought at any paint store, and is applied in very small quantities to the sole leather.

Put a few drops on and spread it evenly over the surface with a flat stick of wood, or better still, if one happens to have it, the handle of an old tooth brush.

Stand the shoes upside down and allow the first coat to thoroughly dry before another is applied. When the leather will absorb no more the varnish will form a shiny surface on the outside.

Shoes that have never been worn should have the soles sand-papered, so as to remove the glazed finish before applying the varnish. The wearing qualities of shoes can be greatly increased if forms are placed in them each night or when not in use. This will stretch the leather and not permit it to draw and crack as it keeps the shoe in its original shape.—New York Press.

### RECIPES.

**A Good Lemon Pie.**—One lemon, 1 cup sugar, 1 egg, 1-2 cup milk, 1 dessertspoon cornstarch mixed with the sugar. For two crusts.

**Snow Cake.**—Beat the whites of 4 eggs stiff, cream 1-2 cup butter, 1 cup sugar, add 1-2 cup milk, 2 cups flour sifted twice, with 3 level teaspoons baking powder. Fold in the whites of the eggs last, and 1-2 teaspoon or more lemon or vanilla flavoring.

**Penucha.**—Boil 3 cups of light brown sugar and 1 cup of milk until it forms a soft ball when tried in

water. Stir in 2 teaspoons of butter and a cup of walnut or pecan nuts. Continue to stir until the mixture becomes creamy and begins to stiffen, then drop by spoonfuls on a butter plate.

**Chocolate Caramels.**—One cup sugar, 1 cup milk 1 cup molasses, 1-4 of half pound cake chocolate, butter half size of an egg, little vanilla just before it is done. Boil until crisp in water. Must be carefully watched from time it begins to boil.

**Filled Cookies.**—One cup of sugar, 1-2 cup shortening (part lard and part butter), 1 egg, 1-2 cup milk, 3 1-2 cups flour, 2 teaspoons cream tartar, 1 teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon vanilla. Roll thin, put cookies in pan, then put teaspoon filling on each. Place another cookie gently on each. Filling For Cookies: One Cup chopped raisins, 1-2 cup sugar, 1-2 cup water, 1 tablespoon flour. Cook until thick.

**Foreign Fruit.**—Four pounds hard pears cut in small pieces, 2 1-2 pounds sugar, juice and outer peel of 1 lemon, 1-2 pound preserved ginger, tumbler cold water; cook until transparent.

## WORTH QUOTING

The French people keep up their reputation for considerate forethought, with the Washington Star, by not requiring aviators to risk their lives on sharp turns.

China is determined to develop her resources, preferably through the aid of this country. Maybe the Pacific coast of America won't be a busy place then, exults the Los Angeles Times.

"Some folks," said Uncle Eben, in the Washington Star, "takes credit for bein' hopeful an' cheerful when dey's only jes' procrastinatin'!"—Washington Star.

It is now claimed, notes the Christian Register that plants have memory and habit, that they may be taught tricks, and that it is possible that some form of consciousness enters into their beautiful lives.

The Scientific American discusses the great advances that have been made in meteorology in an obvious but vain endeavor to attract a small installment of approbation to the weather man.

"Don't reach out for all the world," said the Old Philosopher, in the Atlanta Constitution, "and yet, if you don't, the other fellow may grab it, and you'll find yourself without an acre of ground to stand on!"

Men have done great work in the world after sixty and found great happiness in living. It is to be hoped, chirps the Washington Post, that Dr. Osler and all the hearty boys of his age will remain with us many years yet.

Says the Chicago Record-Herald: One of the finest things about baseball is the absolute lack of talk concerning the throwing of games or the bribing of players. The contests in both the American and the National League have shown beyond any doubt that the game is honestly played.

It is not in accordance with the ethics of amateur sport, and especially with the spirit of intercollegiate athletics, declares the Philadelphia Record, that men should be procured to enter a college and to remain in it ostensibly as students, when the real purpose is to fortify the football team or the crew.

In the United States some Western States have granted women the privileges of the ballot box. Everywhere in our country, remarks the Boston Herald, bands of earnest women are enthusiastically advocating the right of their sex to full suffrage. When the women of this country as a whole demand the ballot there is no doubt it will be given to them, but not before.

The constitution in China is the beginning of a new era in which Occidental civilization shall have a larger part, prophesies the Pittsburgh Dispatch. The awakening has begun. We may not anticipate a duplication of Japanese development, for the Chinese nature differs in important particulars. But, we may expect a wonderful metamorphosis, with more faithfulness in copying the American model.

Wonderful results are expected of a new cactus, developed by Luther Burbank. The claim made is that "it may be canned, pickled, preserved, made into syrup, or find a ready market in the fresh state. The leaves of the plant may be eaten by man boiled as greens, fried like an eggplant or eaten as a salad." Mr. Burbank estimates that three billion acres of unproductive soil throughout the world may be utilized to yield the new plant, so the report says. What a snap for another trust!

### BIRTH RATES IN EUROPE.

Highest in the Eastern and the Southern Part of the Continent.

Nearly every country in Europe publishes a summary of the information obtained in the census of its population, which is taken every five or ten years. By studying these condensed reports interesting comparisons as to the growth of population may be obtained.

For instance, it is found that in proportion to population the birth rate is larger in eastern than in western Europe and in the southern than in the northern part of the continent.

The birth rate is more than twice as large in Russia as it is in France. In Normandy and the southwestern part of France, where the birth rate is lowest, the births at times fall as low as fifteen to the thousand inhabitants in a year. But in Russia there are many districts, as in Orenburg, where the births are as high as sixty a thousand in a year.

Notwithstanding the enormous emigration from Europe in the nineteenth century its population now is nearly double what it was at the beginning of the century. It is believed that at the beginning of the Christian era there were only a few million people in the whole of Europe. It does not seem likely that the present rate of increase can continue many centuries to come.

That part of Great Britain occupied by England is now the most densely peopled region in Europe. The crowding of so many millions together is at last having the effect of diminishing the birth rate. Statistics show that it has declined one-fourth in the last twenty-eight years. If this goes on it will not be a very long time before the English birth rate is as small as that of France.

In some parts of Germany, as in Berlin and the region around it, the birth rate is declining, but in most of the empire it still appears to be holding its own.—New York Sun.

To the Dallas News: One of the most discouraging things in the world is the waste.

Other things being equal, a cook prefers a place where she can break the most dishes with the least exertion, asserts the Dallas News.

"A good-by kiss," says Andrew Lang, "is a little thing." Yes, indeed. One of the little things that tell, confesses the New York Mail.

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